



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1906-10-31

Letter from R[obert] U[nderwood] Johnson to John Muir, 1906 Oct 31.

Robert Underwood Johnson

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October 31, 1906.

R. W. GILDER, EDITOR.
R. U. JOHNSON,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
C. C. BUEL,
ASSISTANT EDITOR.

My dear Muir:

Mr. George R. King, 41 North Beacon street, Brighton, Boston, was in this morning with photographs of petrified forests and, on the understanding that you are to write us an article on that subject, as we hope you still mean to do, we have asked him to send you certain photographs which we have selected from his set as being, on the whole, the best and most comprehensive presentation of the subject pictorially. Of course we cannot use a large number of pictures. I should be glad to learn that your pen has already dipped into your ink-bottle on this article, which need not be a long one, by the way.

I am glad to hear from Mr. King that your Helen's health is much improved.

Now, another matter. I have just had a letter from W. S. Harwood of Los Gatos telling me about your letters to a friend which are in the possession of George Wharton James and asking me what rights Mr. James has in them. As a copyright sharp I have told him that if the letters were bequeathed

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James
to ~~him~~ and, possibly, if they were merely given to him by the lady who received them he had a legal right to hold them, though I thought it was a petty piece of business, but that he certainly had no right whatever to publish a line from them, as that right inheres in you as the writer, or in your heirs in case of your death. You could get out a perpetual injunction against Mr. James publishing them or permitting them to be published; that is, if you should come to sword points on the matter. It seems that that gentleman has an idea that these are so interesting and valuable from a scientific point of view that you ought to be kept from destroying them—as if you were not as much interested as he in the presentation of the records of your scientific work. Some people make me tired!

I am very much in hopes that Tuesday's vote will dispose of the political ambitions of Mr. William R. Hearst.

Faithfully yours,

R. U. Johnson
Associate Editor.

Mr. John Muir.

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